

Message Text

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R 250858Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4712

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4530

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH CB

SUBJ: PRC EDITORIAL ON INDOCHINESE SUMMIT ANNIVERSARY

SUMMARY: OBLIGED BY THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLE'S SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO COMMENT ON THE SITUATION IN HER NEIGHBORING AREA, CHINA HAS APPLAUDED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, A PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL OF APRIL 25 MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY, TREATS THE THEME OF UNITY AMONG THE THREE INDOCHINESE PEOPLE CAUTIOUSLY. THE EDITORIAL'S FOCUS ON THE PAST AND INDICATIONS THAT THE PACE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WAS UNEXPECTED SUGGESTS THAT THE PRC HAS NOT YET HAD TIME TO REASSESS THE DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR CHINA . END SUMMARY

1. THE APRIL 25 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL GREETING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLE'S SUMMIT
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CONFERENCE SEES AN "UNPRECEDENTLY EXCELLENT SITUATION" PRE-

VAILING AFTER THE TRIUMPH OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE AND THE "CRUMBLING OF THE "PUPPET SAIGON REGIME". THE EDITORIAL PROAISES THE "SOLID UNITY" OF THE PEOPLE OF THE THREE INDO-CHINESE COUNTRIES AS THE "VITAL FACTOR" IN DEFEATING THEIR COMMON ENEMY, U.S. IMPERIALISM AND ITS LACKEYS". IN SPEAKING OF THIS "UNITY " , HOWEVER, THE EDITORIAL FOCUSSES ON THEPAST AND IS LESS CERTAIN IN PROVIDING A PRESCRIPTION FOR THE FUTURE. INDEED, THE EDITORIALIST ADDS THAT THE "LOFTY AIMS SET BY THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE.... MUST BE AND WILL BE ATTAINED," A CAREFUL INDICATION THAT THERE IS A CONTINUING NEED FOR REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE TO REBUILD AND TO DEFEND THEIR SEPARATE INDEPENDENCE.

2. THE EDITORIAL ADMITS FARANKLY THAT INDOCHINAEVDNTS ARE DEVELOPING " FASTER THAN EXPECTED" AND THE CLEAR IMPRESSION IS THAT CHINA IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO ANALYZE THE RECENT EVENTS AND DETERMINE HER BEST RESPONSE AND POLICY. THE EDITORIAL, HOWEVER, PROVIDES NO INSIGHT TO WHAT THAT RESPONSE MAY BE. IT SUGGESTS THAT THE U.S. IS IN AN EQUALLY DIFFICULT POSITION--- "MOANING HELPLESSLY"... AND ALSO WITHOUT A CLEAR POLICY.

3. THE US. ROLE DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS IS AMPLY CRITICIZED BUT THE "OTHER SUPERPOWER" IS ACCUSED AS BETRAYING THE CAUSE OF REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE. IN CONTRAST, THE CHINESE DEPICT THEMSELVES AS THE TRUE FRIENDS OF THE INDOCHINSE PEOPLE WITH INDO-CHINESE VICTORIES AS "THEIR OWN".

4. THE MAIN THEME OF THE EDITORIAL APPEAR TO BE THE PRC SURPRISE WITH THE RAPIDITY OF EVENTS, ITS DESIRE TO IDENTIFY CLOSELY WITH THE SUCCESS, AND ITS CONSEL THAT THERE IS CONTINUING WORK TO ATTAIN ALL THE AIMS OF THE INDOCHINESE SUMMIT. SIGNIFICANTLY, AMONG THE SUMMIT'S CONCLUSIONS WERE THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF EACH OF THE THREE INDOCHINSE COUNTIRES, WHICH RNS COUNTER TO HANOI'S EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SOME TYPE OF CONFEDERATION BUT IS PROBALBY CLOSER TO PEKING'S OWN INTERESTS IN THE REGION. CROSS

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